IN THE CLAIMS

--1-17 (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A polynucleotide suitable for predicting the efficacy of interferon therapy using interferon-α and/or interferon-β for treating an individual who suffers from hepatitis C virus, comprising a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

(at) the polynucleotide ~~of~~ comprising Sequence ID No. 1;

(bt) a polynucleotide having a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 99.83% identical to Sequence ID No. 1 and having MxA gene promoter activity; and

(et) a complementary strand of the polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of (at) and ~~(dt)~~ (bt).

19. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of Claim 18, which comprises (at).

20. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of Claim 18, which comprises (bt).

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of Claim 18, which comprises (et).

24. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of Claim 18, further comprising at least one additional polynucleotide connected to said polynucleotide, the additional polynucleotide being selected from the group consisting of a promoter, an enhancer, an

upstream activation sequence, a silencers, a upstream suppression sequence, an attenuator, a poly A tail, a nucleus transport signal, Kozak sequence, ISRE, a drug resistance factor, a gene of signal peptide, a gene of transmembrane domain, a gene of marker protein, a gene of interferon-responding protein, and a gene of interferon-non-responding protein.

25-45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 18.

47-61. (Canceled)